

Georgia Department of Community Health
Office of Health Improvement
Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Ellen Williams, JD, Chair	Jaime Kaplan
Lesa Walden-Young, MD	Phylecia Wilson
Gael E. Gilbert, RN	Gina P. Lundberg, MD, FACC
Sarah E. Lang	Jean Wright, MD

Guest Speakers:

Dee M. Baldwin, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dafna Kanny, PhD

DCH Staff Present:

James T. Peoples	Kristal Ammons
Paulette M. Poole	Mae Bowden
Lynn Christian	Harold Young

The Office of Health Improvement held its Women's Health Advisory Council (WHAC) meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at the Department of Community Health in Atlanta, Georgia.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Ellen Williams at 10:25 a.m. Ms. Williams opened the meeting and called for approval and adoption of the March 23, 2007 meeting minutes. There being no changes to the minutes, the motion was made to approve and seconded. The members voted and the March 23, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved and adopted. A copy of the agenda, a list of attendees, and copies of Dr. Baldwin's and Dr. Kanny's presentation are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as attachments #1, #2, #3 and #4.

Chairman Williams opened the meeting up to Dr. Dee Baldwin, former and first Executive Director for the Office of Women's Health (OWH).

James Peoples introduced Dr. Baldwin and stated that the purpose of her presentation to Council members was to give them a more detailed background about the formation of the WHAC and its Strategic Plan. Dr. Baldwin is on the faculty at Georgia State University and was the first Executive Director of the Office of Women's Health for the State of Georgia. A copy of Dr. Baldwin's presentation was distributed to Council members.

Dr. Baldwin began her presentation by stating she was honored to serve as the first Executive Director and expressed her appreciation and accolades to the initial Advisory Board and staff for their hard work and dedication to the Office of Women's Health. In

her presentation, Dr. Baldwin gave a brief description of the first Advisory Council. The Council was made up of two honorary chairpersons, former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and former first lady of Georgia, Mrs. Marie Barnes, 11 members consisting of physicians and women's health advocates. OWH hosted a two day retreat for Council members giving them the opportunity to get to know one another and determine how they all could work together to utilize each other's strengths; to develop a vision and mission statement; and also to determine key health issues impacting women. Dr. Baldwin strongly recommended that a retreat be held for this Council.

The initial focus for the OWH was non-reproductive health issues based on the legislation the office was created under. Legislators introduced the legislation to include non-reproductive health issues for two reasons: 1) the Department of Human Resources (DHR) already focused on reproductive health issues and 2) Nationally, there was a big push to deal with women's health issues for women 40 and over; which were considered to be in the non-reproductive stages of life. Dr. Baldwin stated that at that time, Georgia was ranked 39th and is currently ranked 34th.

Chairperson Ellen Williams asked if the OWH had any corporate sponsorship. Dr. Baldwin responded that sponsorship was handled very carefully. There were corporate sponsors but they were put in the form of an educational type grant. If monies were received from pharmaceutical companies or any other vendor, there were disclaimers and no commercializing of any products from vendors.

Chairperson Ellen Williams mentioned that the Department of Education proposed a foundation that has been allowed to accept corporate funding and turn it back around. She thought this maybe a resource option that the OWH might want to consider in the future. Dr. Baldwin mentioned that funds obtained by outside companies did not come to the State Office of Women's Health, but went to another community agency and then we accessed those funds.

Next on the agenda was Dafna Kanny, PhD, who serves as the Chief Epidemiologist and Deputy Section Chief in the Chronic Disease Section of DHR. She presented on the current status of women's health in Georgia. Dr. Kanny's unit is responsible for the collection of data specific to Georgia.

In addition to her presentation, Dr. Kanny informed Council members that DHR is currently developing a 2007 Women's Health in Georgia Report and will be available soon. Once finalized, she will be happy to distribute copies to Council members and also recommended that OWH partner with DHR in the distribution of the reports. A copy of her presentation was distributed to Council members. Ms. Williams also asked if Dr. Kanny can email members a copy of her presentation including her notes.

Moving forward with the agenda, Chairperson Williams asked Mr. Peoples to give his Director's Report.

Mr. Peoples began by referring to Dr. Kanny regarding the timeframe for completion of the 2007 Women's Health Report. He shared with Council members that this report could be a valuable resource to WHAC that could show the disparity gaps in women's health and be cited as our most recent data.

Council member Dr. Lesa asked Dr. Kanny what was the clearing process timeline for this report? Dr. Kanny responded that the report has to be cleared through a chain of 5 staff members and could take anywhere from 2 weeks to 2 months.

Mr. Peoples said that this information along with the information that was mailed to them would give the council some framework as to what direction the council wants to take.

Mr. Peoples introduced Harold Young, the new HIV/AIDS TAKE Project Program Coordinator for the Office of Health Improvement and informed members of the HIV/AIDS Listening sessions being held across the state.

Mr. Peoples gave an update on the Men's Health Fair, "One Man at a Time", which is scheduled for June 12, 2007 in the 2 Peachtree Building Lobby.

He also mentioned the Request for Proposal (RFP) on the HPV Vaccine that OHI initiated. This RFP will focus on parental attitudes and opinions about HPV vaccine. Two applications were received from the Morehouse School of Medicine and the Medical College of Georgia. An announcement of the successful grantee will be forthcoming. James recommended that the Council may want to review similar projects for the OHI.

Chairperson Williams requested Council members to review the data submitted and decide on the direction or focus for the WHAC at the next meeting. She asked members if a board retreat was something they wanted to do. Council members agreed.

Dr. Lundberg revisited the health directory OHI developed several years ago and asked was the information updated. Mr. Peoples responded that the 2003 directory was the most recent and needed to be updated. Dr. Lundberg felt there was a mismatch of resources according to the directory and recommended the development of a spreadsheet to determine how many programs deal with what issues and the population those issues affect.

Council member Sara Lang stated that the problem is that programs are being developed where there is funding only.

Mr. Peoples agreed and stated we could put together a spreadsheet as a start, to show what women's health programs are available in DCH and DHR.

Dr. Kanny mentioned that all DHR grants and all chronic disease programs are funded by the CDC. The grants are for 5 years, but the funding is minimal. For example, there is only about \$300,000 to support staff and activities on a local level for asthma; there is only about \$800,000 - \$1,000,000 funded to address staff issues and activities for

cardiovascular disease, in a state where the leading cause of death for women is cardiovascular disease.

Ms. Ellen Williams said in a conversation she had with DHR's Director for the Division of Public Health, that funding is so minimal that we can't impact outcomes and that part of WHAC's mission could be to recommend to the legislature how important adequate funding is in order to impact the health status of women.

Dr. Kanny stated that other states have substantial funding from their legislators, but Georgia is almost solely dependent on federal funding and that our legislators are barely appropriating funding for health issues and awareness. Chairperson Williams agreed and as an example stated that there has not been a request out of the Department nor the Governor's Office to fully fund [The Stroke and Heart Attack Prevention Program \(SHAPP\)](#), so as a result, the legislators are not going to go out there on their own initiative to do it. She hopes that with the weight of the appointment by the Governor and Commissioner that strategic recommendations of WHAC will carry some weight and shift things. For example, the Physician's Advisory Council is recommending a smoking cessation benefit for Medicaid. Recommendations of this type would make a significant impact on health outcomes.

Ms. Williams recommended Council members decide what groups they would like to support, no later than June, and invite them to the next WHAC meeting to discuss their issues and where the real need is. Mr. Peoples commented that OHI would put together data and the funding piece to go along with the data and that the retreat would be a good time to think about and discuss data and the funding piece. Dr. Lundberg agreed and also commented that this effort would also help build or increase partnerships.

Council member Dr. Lesa suggested that members consider several questions: 1) What do we want to see 2010-2015; 2) How do we want the women of Georgia to be 5 or 10 years from now; and 3) Where do we see ourselves wanting to be as women in the State of Georgia in terms of how we live our lives. Ms. Williams said these questions are definitely something to think about and discuss at our board retreat.

Ms. Williams also encouraged and reminded members that they have influence on the budget process and how important it is to have something by June in order not to miss the opportunity. She reiterated that having these advocate groups and/or organizations speak to WHAC about their needs and issues will not only be informative but help and direct the Council towards deciding what groups to support. Mr. Peoples requested members to forward the names of people and organizations experiencing funding shortages who would like to address the WHAC. He suggested that each group could have about 10 minutes on the agenda to express their concerns to the Council.

Council member Dr. Gina Lundberg also added that the report card was a real good source of information. Looked through the document, she could see where Georgia is failing on women's health and where we are doing well. She suggested if we could focus on where we are getting D's and F's, we would see a huge change or positive impact.

Ms. Williams asked Dr. Kanny if it is possible to obtain a temporary staff person, maybe from CDC or Emory, to do the research on this. Dr. Kanny mentioned that she didn't know if we had a funding mechanism in place where we could approach a BC/BS or WellPoint foundation to request a person to help us with the research or if DCH has a mechanism in place.

Mr. James Peoples mentioned that this has been done before in state government and that in fact, he was a loaned employee. He will investigate this and report back the findings at the next meeting.

Chairperson asked members if there was any other business before adjourning.

Dr. Gina Lundberg informed Council of a program being held at St. Joseph's on women and heart disease on May 5, 2007 and encouraged everyone to attend. An update on the 2007 guidelines for women and heart disease will be given.

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Follow Up Items

- ❖ Invite groups to come out that may be interested in talking to the council at the next meeting that could possibly have an impact on the current budget.
- ❖ Also come up with some collective ideas of creative resources that we might be able to cut some of the data
- ❖ Think about what might need to be addressed during the 2 day retreat. Send availability. James suggested possibility doing a noon to noon.

Next Meeting

Location: Georgia Department of Community Health –
40th Floor Boardroom
Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.